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Ags still first after 10-point win

By JOHN CURYLO
 Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas Aggies remained tied for the lead in the Southwest Conference basketball race with an 80-70 win over the Rice Owls in Houston Tuesday night.

Another good percentage night from the field and a well-balanced scoring attack provided A&M with their third straight conference victory and the eighth win in the past nine games. Rice has lost 10 of its last 11 starts.

The Aggies hit 15 of 25 from the field in the first half and 13 of 28 in the second stanza for a 52.8 norm for the night. Rice shot 35.8% on 24 of 67 from the floor.

Five A&M players were in double figures in a game marred by 44 turnovers and 48 personal fouls.

Wayne Howard was the game's leading scorer with 23 points. Playing the entire game without a substitution, he connected on eight of 14 from the field and seven of 11 charity shots.

Other leading scorers for the Aggies were Mario Brown with 17 tallies on six of eight field goals and five of seven free

throws, Rick Duplantis and Randy Knowles, 12 each, and Jeff Overhouse, 10.

Duplantis was good on all five of his shots from the field and both free throws. Overhouse played only 10 minutes in the first half and 14 in the second, although the Aggies led by as much as 12 in the first stanza and 20 in the second.

A&M lost the battle of the boards, 50-42, with Howard, Overhouse and Knowles getting six caroms apiece. Duplantis had five.

Rice's leading scorers were Mark Wehrle and Leroy Marion, each with 12. Wehrle and Steve Emshoff shared rebounding honors with eight each.

The Aggies got off to their usual quick lead, but sloppy play forced a nine-point lead six minutes into the game into a 13-13 tie with 11:17 showing in the half. The Owls managed to knot it twice again, at 22 and 24 each, four minutes later, but it was never close after that.

A&M's rugged defense kept Rice off the scoreboard for five minutes after the tie at 6:47, while hitting 12 straight points. With 2:02 left to play before in-

termission, Bobby Threadgill made a jump shot from the top of the key for the Aggies' biggest spread of the period, 36-24.

A&M shot out of the blocks at the start of the second half. Howard made an easy layup on a fast break to give the Aggies a 50-39 advantage with four minutes gone.

Brown made a crib shot on another break two minutes later and was knocked to the floor by John Kabbes. Brown hit both of the free throws awarded for the intentional violation, and A&M was off on another burst of points.

Inside the eight-minute mark, a pair of 20-point leads resulted from a 22-foot jump shot from the right side by Howard and a successful one-and-one by Knowles. The Aggies cooled somewhat, but the Owls were never closer than eight, with a minute and a half left.

The scoring:
 A&M — Wayne Howard, 23; Mario Brown, 17; Rick Duplantis, 12; Randy Knowles, 12; Jeff Overhouse, 10; and Bobby Threadgill, 6.
 Rice — Mark Wehrle, 12; Leroy Marion, 12; John Kabbes, 9;

Don Snyder, 6; Steve Emshoff, 5; Scott Fisher, 5; Randy Reynolds, 5; Randy Youngling, 4; Dale Johnson, 4; Dan McGuire, 3; Dean Fisher, 3; and John Mott, 2.

A&M, now 11-6 for the season and 4-1 in conference play, hosts Texas Tech Saturday at 8 p.m. The Red Raiders and Southern Methodist are tied with the Aggies for first place. Rice is now 5-12 for the year and 0-5 in league play.

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Aggie tankers down Owls

With a score of 74-39, the Aggie swim team downed the Rice Owls yesterday in Downs Natatorium, grabbing 10 first places along the way.

The A&M tankers, who are now 6-3 on the season, will move on to Baton Rouge, La., for competition with the LSU Tigers Friday afternoon.

Taking first places for the Aggies were John Allred, in the

1000 yard freestyle; Ben Stegenson, 200 yard free; Greg Smith, 200 yard individual medley; Thomas Faulkenberry, one meter diving; and Charles Puckett, 200 yard butterfly.

Other first place finishers were Mike Rice, 100 yard free; Dan Sonnenberg, 200 yard backstroke; Martin Litteken, 500 yard free; Greg Rippey, three

meter diving. The medley relay team of Sonnenberg, Harry Palmer, Scot Jones and Wade Mattingly also placed first.

Other point makers for A&M were Bill Loeffler, Steve Prentice, and Corky Crowover.

"We're looking mechanically better with each meet we swim in," said Coach Dennis Fosdick about the victory over the Owls. "Our divers also seem to improve with each meet they are in."

"The meet this weekend with LSU should tell the tale on how the work outs have been going," Fosdick said. "We're hoping to qualify Steve Prentice and Doug Meaden for the nationals and have general drops of one to two seconds in times. We have to do it now, time is running out for the conference swim meet."

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(Continued from page 1)

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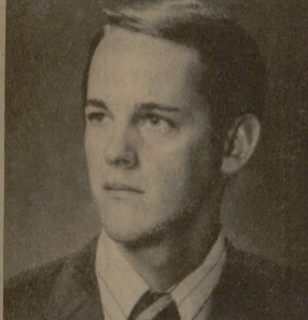
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